

5-14-1864

## Maj.Gen. Joseph Wheeler to Gen. Joseph E. Johnston (14 May 1864. 12:25am)

Joseph Wheeler (1836-1906)

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Major General Coffey  
Military Road May 14<sup>th</sup> 1864  
12-25 AM

General Pursuant to your direction  
I moved out this morning. I first  
went out on the Resaca & Dalton  
road. When I reached General Kelly's  
line I found him skirmishing with  
the enemy. General Kelly stated that  
his line was very extended as it  
extended round to the river and he  
was quite weak in his front.  
At the same time I was a report  
from General Allen, who was on the  
Military road, that the enemy had  
commenced skirmishing with him.  
I moved to General Allen and found  
the enemy in his front then perpen-  
dicular to the Military road and  
also in line parallel to the Resaca  
and Dalton road and facing the  
Resaca & Dalton road. I ordered  
General Kelly to move forward as soon  
as he heard over charges. Leaving  
a force to protect my left flank  
I moved forward with 275 men.  
I moved a men on the Military road.  
General Kelly moved with 200 men.



on the Ballou road with a Regt of  
Infantry on his left. He drove the  
enemy for some distance passing  
over the dead bodies of four ~~men~~  
~~men & one woman~~ captured a few  
guns & pistols ~~guns~~ - ~~three~~ ~~Inf~~  
~~men~~ & ~~one woman~~ ~~men~~ and  
captured a few guns & pistols -  
hats & other articles - As the  
leaves were thick and being  
mounted I could not see the  
enemy myself - My best officers  
who were in front state that  
they saw Infantry in line of  
battle - I send Captains Gasin  
Bellis & McElroy to state what  
they observed - many of the  
men state they saw skirmish  
with blankets & knapsacks -  
we were obliged to fall back  
as the enemy appeared &  
fired into our rear - With  
my present force I can develop  
only the fact that there is  
Infantry in our front - but  
can not develop their strength  
as the woods are so thick  
that it is not necessary to



to ~~develop~~ <sup>develop</sup> their <sup>entire</sup> lines in order  
to ~~repel~~ <sup>repel</sup> our attack - It must  
be born in mind that I can  
only concentrate a small force  
at any one point as I have  
to picket a very long line.  
If a Brigade of Infantry were  
sent me I could attack their  
lines at various points, ~~together~~  
with the assistance of my  
cavalry I could contain accurately  
them.

With best regards  
Yours truly  
G. W. L. H.  
Major General

Gen. J. E. Johnston  
By any Gen.